



# BO TALES

Vol. 10, No. 1

The Newsletter of the Original Hobo Nickel Society, Inc.

Jan/Feb/Mar 2001

## Hobo Carver Billzach...

... is Bill Jameson of Wingo, KY. I took a 30 and out at Goodyear Tire and



Jewish Man

Rubber Company and needed something to do and extra income. Since I knew how to carve hobo nickels and enjoyed carving hobos, I decided this would be my hobby and extra income.

It all started one day at work when a fellow worker showed me a buffalo nickel with a different face on it. He said it was a hobo nickel and told me hobos in the old days would carve them and trade them for food or money. He asked me if I thought I could

carve one and I told him I thought I could. I went home and got a buffalo nickel out of my coin collection and went to work carving a hobo nickel.

When I started I used a hammer, punch and chisel. I used three wood screws to hold the nickel down. I hammered on it, punched on it and it looked something like the one the man had shown me. It was very crude looking, but the man said he would buy it.

The next week he said he wanted to buy five more. About a week later wanted some more.

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Hobo with peanut ears

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Over the past year, a problem has arisen in the hobo nickel hobby: many new hobo nickel carvers have been creating old-looking hobo nickels. Most of these nickels are hand carved, some with very smooth or finely stippled background fields. And most are in the style of old original hobo nickels. Plus many are artificially aged to look old.

It has reached the point where the OHNS authenticators cannot easily distinguish these old-looking modern pieces from actual old original hobo nickels. In addition, whether a nicely-done hobo nickel is old or modern is becoming less important to many collectors. The nice modern pieces are selling at about the same levels as nice old hobo nickels.

So the OHNS Board has decided that we will cease authenticating and registering original hobo nickels. We have changed the service to instead provide a Quality Designation (QD) report on submitted coins, along with two examiner's opinions on the coin's workmanship, subject, probable artist, etc. Registration numbers will no longer be issued. See the new QD submission form in this issue.

...

In other news, our library is now active (but needs more donations); Sam Alfano has volunteered to be our webmaster ([www.hobonickels.org](http://www.hobonickels.org); the site should be active by the time you read this); the 2001 silver OHNS hobo tokens are available; and work is progressing on the OHNS Hobo Nickel Guidebook.

...

As an incentive for members to write articles for *Bo Tales*. We are initiating the "Bo Tales Literary Award." This is in the form of a special hobo token being designed by Ron Landis, which will be given to authors of articles that are published in *Bo Tales*. Each token will be engraved with the author's name and the year.

The article must be over 3/4 printed pages long. Only one token per person. Board members and officers are eligible, but their articles must be unrelated to their offi-

cial duties. Awards begin with this issue.

The only way to receive this hobo token is to have your article published in *Bo Tales*. So start writing and send in your article to the editor.

...

For those of you in the west, try to attend the hour-long informal OHNS meeting on Saturday June 2<sup>nd</sup>, at the Long Beach (CA) Coin Expo. Check the show's program for time and room.

...

And finally, if you know of any coin collectors or other people you think would be interested in hobo nickels, consider giving them a year's membership in OHNS as a birthday or holiday gift.

Steve "The Big One" Alpert



## YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO MOVE UP THE HOBO LADDER

Do any of you hoboes at heart out there want to jump aboard the OHNS freight train bound for our 2002 through 2003 FUN-filled journey, as an officer in the Original Hobo Nickel Society? If so, contact Secretary Jeff Daniher, Box 54583, Cincinnati, OH 45254 before August 1st to throw your derby in the ring, or for more information. See the back cover of this issue for the updated list of OHNS officers and how to contact them.



**Billzach...** continued from page 1

He was selling them as fast as I could hammer them out. This went on for about four years. I would hammer out seven or eight a week and sell them or give them away.

Then, like most people, I got a computer and was looking at coins for sale and saw a hobo nickel for sale. So I went out and bought a camera and put four or five on Ebay and to my amazement they all sold.

I started looking at other hobo carver's nickels and saw that I wasn't doing a very good job carving hobo nickels. I emailed a man who was selling on Ebay by the name of Arthur Hutchison (Hutches) of Mississippi. He was very helpful in giving me information on how to carve a better hobo nickel. He told me about hand engravers and scope to use in my carving. I bought some hand engravers and scope and as you can see from my hobo nickel the last six months my work improved 100%.

As of the writing of this article I have started doing portraits of people I know and done a hobo nickel of the space shuttle for a man who works at the space



Clown

center in Florida.

The way I got my name is using my name- Bill, and my grandson's name - Zach, putting the two together to spell Billzach.

I want to say that if it wasn't for Arthur Hutchison and Ed Runaway, a hobo from 1934 to 1937 who has bought about 30 of my nickels, and Ron McCord, a hobo nickel collector, and Loco Larry, another hobo nickel collector, I would never come this far.

Bill Jameson



Slick Willie



Hiking Hobo



# Original Hobo Nickel Society FUN 2001 Auction

*by John and Nancy Wilson, NLG*

The Original Hobo Nickel Society Mail and Floor Auction #9 was held on Saturday, January 6, 2001, in conjunction with the 46th Annual Florida United Numismatists, Inc. (F.U.N.). The F.U.N. Convention was held on January 4 - 7, 2001, in the very spacious Orange County Convention Center, in Orlando, FL. The theme for the F.U.N. Convention was "Into The New Millennium F.U.N. Odyssey 2001." The convention even featured an actual astronaut (in his actual astronaut gear) assisting with the opening ceremonies. The only thing you can say about the FUN show is, "WOW, what an excellent convention." Photo No. 1 shows Nancy and I, along with the astronaut after opening ceremonies under the main entrance to the convention hall.

The General Membership meeting and OHNS Auction were held in Room 231B. Unfortunately, I missed almost all of the membership meeting which started at 10:00 A.M. Just after I sat down, the OHNS President Steve Alpert stood up and went to the center of the room. He was holding some type of award in his hand. It wasn't long before he said my name, and I was the recipient of the First Presidents Award from the OHNS. Wow, was I surprised and honored to receive such a prestigious award. I want to sincerely thank President Alpert for honoring me with such an important award. I will do my best to always promote and help the OHNS grow and become stronger. In regards to the regular membership meeting, I heard later that the certifying of Hobo Nickel's was going to change with future submis-

sions. Quoting Bill "Zemo" Fivaz, "Hobo Nickels submitted for examination will now be given a Quality Designation (Q.D.), complete with comments on the piece from at least two examiners. They will no longer be assigned a "certification number", but a photo will accompany the Q.D. form for each submission which will be returned with the coin to the submitter." Bill "Zemo" Fivaz wanted me to mention that in the next "Bo" tales, OHNS President Steve Alpert will explain the reasons behind this change in his Presidents Message.

For the past several years, members and collectors of Hobo Nickels have been treated to fantastic auctions that have been held in conjunction with the fabulous FUN Convention. This sale was no exception to previous sales, except it had more examples produced by modern artists and

engravers. Examples produced by Ron Landis and Sam Alfano (and jointly) grace the pages of the catalog. These two outstanding artists and engravers work many hours to produce Hobo's that are very coveted by the collector community. Several Bo's were also featured. The 50 page OHNS Auction #9 featured an excellent selection of 139 lots of Hobo's in all grades and denominations. This catalog is a must have if you collect or have an interest in Hobo Nickel's. With all the lots illustrated, described and graded the auction was easy to follow and track. Zemo does an outstanding job and allows you the necessary time to make up your mind whether you want a lot or not. Though no lot in this sale was needed for our collection, I did bid

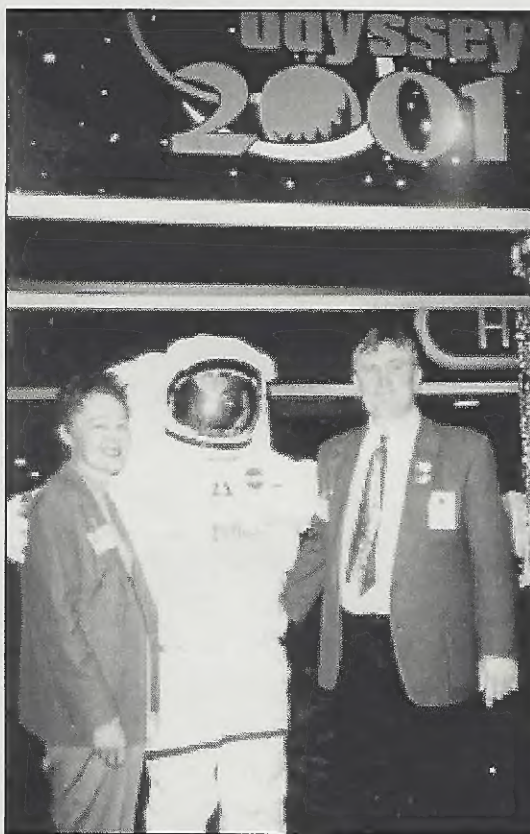


Photo 1

continued on page 5



**2001 F.U.N. Auction...** continued from page 4

on several lots being successful on eight of them and underbidder on a few. Though I (John) tracked the sale and participated, all the comments are mine. Nancy helped with the story with editing and going over the bids and other items with me. Bill "Zemo" Fivaz also edited and helped with parts of the story making corrections and additions where needed.

The auction room was well lighted and probably could hold about 80 to 100 people. I would say about 40 members and interested collectors / dealers were in attendance at the sale. Most of the OHNS members who usually attend the annual sale were in attendance along with some new members who I didn't recognize. The auction was attended by artist Sam Alfano. Sam, along with other celebrities signed the cover of my catalog at the end of the sale. With the raised platform and podium at the front of

Just prior to the start of the sale, a few donated lots were sold for the good of the OHNS. All these donated lots appeared to do well. None of the prices listed in this story include the 10% buyers fee. Zemo E-mailed me that the hammer price for the auction was \$23,570.00, just short of the record from last year. I will cover many of the lots, but not all of them. Unless noted, the probable artists for the lots listed below are unknown. Almost all the lots had two authenticators grade the Hobo's. If I mention only one grade, that means that both authenticators agreed, otherwise both grades are mentioned. If no artist is mentioned that means the artist is unknown. I could feel the excitement in the air at the start of the sale. Everyone had their bid card at the ready. Many new participants were in attendance. You have to be a member of the OHNS to bid in the sale. It should also be noted that all lots had authentication papers as this is a requirement for any coin submitted for the auction.

Lot 1 was a Bearded man wearing hat in average high quality. It was carved and punched on a No date "P" mint 5 cent (G). One grader said it was both carved and punched and had been lightly burnished. It opened at \$39 and sold to the floor for \$95. Lot 2, a Beardless man with hat, on "P" mint was graded average. This carved example was possibly done by Wedsel according to one authenticator. Opening at \$50, it sold to the floor for \$150. Lot 6, probable artist Bo, was a two sided carving (Obv. Indian w/hat & Rev. Clown's face) on 5 cent was graded above average.

According to one authenticator, it was probably a transitional carving made by Bo in 1963-64. Opening at \$50, it sold to a life member for \$120. In retrospect, I should have bid on this piece but didn't. Three virtually identical Hobo 5 cents (bearded man wearing derby) on a drop pendant were in Lot 11. The above average, carved, three



Photo 2

the room, it made for easy tracking (and buying) at the sale. Photo No. 2 shows Auctioneer Bill "Zemo" Fivaz at the podium. On left is Dave "Willy" Wilson, and next to him is Ray "Erie" Flanigan. Willy and Erie handled most of the opening book and mail bids. After Zemo explained the rules which included the usual comments regarding "no unlimited bids were accepted," the sale started. He explains this because it is in the auction rules.

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## 2001 F.U.N. Auction... continued from page 5

piece pendant which was listed as very interesting and attractive by one authenticator opened and sold to the book for \$300. Lot #16 was another Bearded man wearing derby (this is the most commonly found Hobo Nickel) only in above average high quality and completely carved. This lot opened at \$50 and sold to the floor for \$140. This price was \$20 higher than the similar (but lower graded) piece in Lot 10 which was carved and punched. The \$140 was an excellent price considering one authenticator mentioned in the comments that the piece had appearances of a modern carving but was believed by that authenticator to be an original.

Lot 20 had no mention of the possibility of being modern and this Bearded man wearing derby on a no date "P" mint 5 cent (VG) in above average and above average high opened at \$50 and sold to the floor for \$170. This piece was carved and also done by a sharp 4-pronged device that punched the metal up to a head at the end of the stroke. Lot 27 was a Bearded man w/derby on obverse and man w/pack on reverse. This 1913-P (T-2) 5 cent (F) was in above average (low) quality. With at least three people interested in this two sided carving, it opened at \$50 and sold to the floor for \$300. The average "Bo" piece in Lot 29 was Bearded man wearing knit cap on a 1928-P 5 cent (G). This mostly punched and mechanical tool done piece with "GH" behind neck opened at \$150 and sold to the floor for \$375. The 25 Hobo Postcards in Lot 37 opened at \$160 and sold to the floor for \$170. All collectors of Hobo's should be looking for these postcards as a related item to their collections. These cards averaged close to \$8 a piece. Assembling 25 cards all at once would take you many years of looking at postcard shows or antique shows. I know that we will be looking for them in the future.

The first heavyweight in the sale was Lot 39. The superior, high relief cameo carving by "Bo," of a Bearded man wearing derby P-Mint Buffalo nickel (XF), opened at \$1,200 and sold to the floor for \$1,300. A good price for a beautiful carving. Another "Bo" followed in Lot 40, which is pictured on page 48 of Del Romines second book. This superior and superior (low) piece of a Bearded man wearing derby Buffalo nickel "P" mint (VF) opened and sold to

the book for \$800. The above average (low) and average (high), "Potty Dime" 1890 - P Liberty seated dime in Lot 44 opened at \$75 and sold to the book for \$175. Lot 35 had another Potty Dime in slightly higher quality and that sold to the floor for \$100. This always happens at auctions. The only logic I can think of is that potential bidders weren't paying attention when the lesser but just as nice piece was sold. The Potty Dollar 1878 - S trade dollar (VF) in Lot 46 in above average (high) opened at \$150 and sold to the floor for \$425. Authenticator David "Willy" Wilson said that "This "naughty" art form preceded Hobo nickels and may have been the inspiration for that art form."

Lot 47 and 48 were both on 1964 half dollars. The first one depicted Richard Nixon and the second Spiro Agnew. The superior and superior (high) Nixon opened at \$266 and sold to the floor for \$300. The Agnew, in superior (low) and above average opened at \$125 and also sold to the floor for \$210. The same bidder purchased both of them. Lot 49 was a Clown on a U. S. nickel 1913-38 (F) by "Bo," which is the plate coin from page 83 of Romines first book. The above average carving opened at \$250 and sold to the floor for \$330. Lot 57 was a "Bo," of a Rabbi w/fancy cap on a U. S. 1930 nickel (VG). This above average and above average (high) piece that is pictured on page 87 of Romines first book opened at \$225 and sold to the floor for \$350. Lot 60, a flowing hair portrait (Moses, Jesus?) U. S. 1926 5 cent (G) in above average by "Bo" opened at \$100 and sold to the floor for \$175. This coin is pictured on page 88 of Romines first book. Lots 61 through 68 was a set of "migrant worker dairy self-portrait" series on Buffalo nickels dated from 1931 to 1936. When all the bids were tallied on this extraordinary lot, the bid for all of them started in Lot 69 at \$700. Some seriously contested bidding came from the book and the floor for this multiple Hobo lot. Finally, after the very spirited bidding, this Series of yearly self-portraits by an unknown artist sold to the book for \$1,700. Zemo worked up a good sweat selling this multiple piece lot. Lot 93 was said to be the worst quality Hobo Dave "Willy" Wilson has ever seen (he was

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## 2001 F.U.N. Auction... continued from page 6

an authenticator on the piece). This Bearded Indian low grade 1913 T-2 "P" in crude quality, done with a zigzag engraving tool, opened at \$10 and sold for \$20.

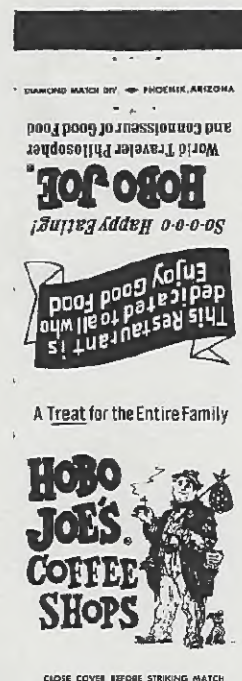
Lot 94, a below average and average (high) Indian w/ hat low grade 1937 Buffalo nickel by probable artist Frank Brazzell (deceased) had no bid and sold to the floor for \$30. The design was accomplished by using a power engraving tool. Lot 96 was done by probable artist John Dorusa (deceased) and was a Bearded man wearing derby, 1935 - P 5 cent (VG) in average quality. It opened and sold to the floor for \$40. Lot 100 was done by probable artist "Smoothie." The Bearded man wearing derby no date 5 cent (VF) in average quality and carved opened at \$50 and sold to the floor for \$170. The six examples by probable artist Sam Alfano were highlighted by Lot 109. The superior carved example of an Elf-like boy with buck teeth, wearing hat no date 5 cent (G) opened at \$400 and sold to the floor for \$650. Lot 128 was only graded by one authenticator and did very well. The Bearded man with scraggly beard and domed hat (ethnic nose) 1927 P 5 cent (EF) in average opened at \$40 and sold to the floor for \$175. A good price for an original hobo.

The Ronald Reagan carving on a 1964 - D 50 cent (AU) piece in superior in Lot 132 opened at \$400. This "incredible" described piece sold to the book for \$500. Five wonderful examples by probable artist Ron Landis were near the end of the sale. The highlight was an amazing Indian Head on a 2000 D 5 cent (AU). Quoting the catalog "at first glance, this appears to be just an enhanced re-engraved buffalo nickel obverse." When you look at the other side and see Monticello, the piece actually scares you. The "exact replica" of the Buffalo Indian is mind boggling. If this piece got into daily commerce and was found someone would think they had a mint error of a buffalo nickel with the Indian side that was made on a Jefferson nickel. This superior example (artist states he has done one other with the Indian) opened at \$325 and sold to the floor for \$425. The last Lot 139, was done by probable artists Sam Alfano and Ron Landis. This amazing two sided carved piece depicted Casey Jones / steam locomotive on a 1913 Type 1 5 cent (XF). This superior quality example was described as "WOW! Probably the ultimate modern hobo

nickel." "A showcase piece that exemplifies what we all so dearly love!" Opening at \$500, it sold to the floor for \$1,500. Zemo, the auctioneer, said it was worth very much. I would like to commend Sam and Ron for their great artistry in carving examples of art that will live on forever like the Bo's and Bert's we all love. When the sale ended, I know that I was exhausted. Some awful nice Hobo Nickels crossed the auction block in this sale covering a very diverse selection of material. I think that everyone added some great material for their collections.

It appeared that 31 different bidders were successful on auction lots. The majority seemed to go to the floor bidders even with a strong book bid. Auctioneer Bill "Zemo" Fivaz did a great job handling the auction duties. We also want to thank Bill for going over our story and making any corrections and or mistakes we make. The neat thing about the OHNS Auction sales is you are able to pick up your lots at the completion of the sale. No worry about shipping and the owners don't have to pack floor bidders lots. We can't wait for the next auction which will probably be at next year's FUN show. For information on "The Original Hobo Nickel Society" and membership write to: P. O. Box 54583, Cincinnati, OH 45254-0583 Dues is only \$10 annually, and you won't be disappointed if you join. Until the next sale, we remain. Yours in numismatic collecting,

John and Nancy Wilson







## OHNS Board of Directors Meeting Minutes...

The annual meeting of the Board of Directors of the Original Hobo Nickel Society was held at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 6, 2001 in room 231B of the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Florida in conjunction with the F.U.N. Convention. In attendance were the following board members: Steve Alpert, president, Bill Fivaz, Fred Benson, James Taylor, Don Farnsworth, Archie Taylor, and Gail Baker. Steve Alpert had Jeff Daniher's proxy and Bill Fivaz had Roman Luzecky's proxy. Chuck Irwin was not present and not represented.

### OHNS LIBRARY

The first item to be discussed was the OHNS Library. Roger Wollam has agreed to be librarian. Members wanting to borrow books will pay postage both ways. Roger will be asked to have labels made with his name and address to aid return of items. Steve Alpert asked to be able to spend up to \$100 for items to be placed in the library for members to borrow. The board agreed. Roger will put a list of OHNS books available for loan in the club journal.

### MEMBERSHIP

The OHNS membership includes several associate members - people living at the same address as regular members. They pay \$5 per year, do not receive mailings, but have member privileges, including the right to vote in elections and participate in the auction. It was agreed that the by-laws will be changed to reflect this category of membership.

There was a very short discussion about raising membership dues due to the increase in postage and the expense of publishing the journal. It was agreed NOT to raise dues, but to raise the necessary funds through sales of tokens, T-shirts and books.

There was some confusion about the number of honorary members and honorary life members. Jeff Daniher, secretary, will be asked for clarification. Bill Fivaz asked that "Greenie" be given an additional year as an honorary member. It was agreed.

### OHNS LITERARY TOKEN

The board discussed having a special hobo token made by Ron Landis and the Gallery Mint for members who submit articles for Bo tales. It was decided to go ahead with the proposal, contingent on the cost. Guidelines were set as follows: articles must be accepted for publication by the editor of Bo Tales, be 3/4 pages in length and, if submitted by a member of the board of directors, not be part of their assigned responsibilities (such as treasurer's or secretaries report). Bill Fivaz volunteered to take pictures at no cost for any members wishing to submit an article. Steve will investigate further and report to the membership.

### SCHOLARSHIPS

One of the founding missions of OHNS is to support education through scholarships to the ANA Summer Seminar. It was decided to continue in 2001 with a \$1000 contribution to the ANA YN scholarship fund. This will be used in partnership with ANA to award two full OHNS/ANA scholarships to YNs who will be selected by the ANA scholarship committee.

In addition, OHNS will disburse up to \$2000 to pay for two OHNS members to attend Seminar. \$1020 of this will go to ANA to pay for tuition, housing and meals; the remainder will be used to reimburse travel costs and will be paid directly to the selected members. Treasurer James Taylor was asked to send \$2020 to ANA. Gail Baker will handle the logistics, including notification of members and selection.

All OHNS members are eligible to receive a full scholarship (tuition, dormitory room at The Colorado College, meals and travel expenses up to \$490) to attend one week of the ANA Summer Seminar in Colorado Springs. Everyone who is interested in attending should contact Gail Baker. Names will be placed in the proverbial hat and two names will be selected at random on March 15 (or two

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**Meeting Minutes...** continued from page 8

weeks after the publication of *Bo tales*). Gail can be contacted by snail mail at:

The American Numismatic Association  
Gail Baker, Director of Education  
818 North Cascade Avenue  
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

by phone at 719-632-2646, ext. 153 or by e-mail at [education@money.org](mailto:education@money.org).

A course catalog, dates of the Seminar, information and a listing of classes are available at [www.money.org](http://www.money.org) under education programs.

**OHNS WEB PAGE**

Sam Alfano volunteered to set up and maintain a web page for the club. It was noted that a member was sent to the ANA Seminar in 2000 to learn web page design in return for setting up and maintaining a web page, but the page never materialized and the member did not respond to requests for information. It was agreed by all that Sam would be appointed web master.

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS**

The OHNS elections will be held in October 2001. Anyone wishing to serve the organization should contact a current officer. Steve Alpert will include a call for nominations with pertinent information in the next issue of *Bo Tales*. Dallas Shaw will continue as the Florida agent for the corporation.

**AUTHENTICATIONS**

There was a long discussion about the increase of modern hobo nickels. Examples of high-quality modern carvings were passed around. Some were carved in the "old style" and were aged to duplicate what we have referred to as "original" carvings. These were close enough in style to fool any collector or authenticator. When OHNS was founded in 1992, one of the missions was to educate the collector about hobo nickels and the difference between the old style (original) and the mass-produced modern (neo-bo) hobo nickels, so collectors understand what they were buying and pay accordingly. The authentication service was established to help with that education.

With the increased interest in hobo nickels has come an increased awareness. Prices have sky-rocketed far beyond the 1992 figures. The OHNS auctions have made hobo nickels available to anyone. The journal and the auction catalogs have done a wonderful job educating the collectors about what to look for to determine the quality and characteristics of each coin - so each coin can stand on its own merits. "Modern" carvings by Frank Brazzell, John Durosa, J. Allen and J. Press have gained new respect and have found eager collectors.

Carvers, such as Ron Landis and Sam Alfano have brought nickel carving to new heights, and their superior artwork is aggressively collected - many times bringing more than "original" examples. They have taken away the "stigma" connected with modern hobo nickels.

The board decided to include - even embrace- all modern hobo nickels and their carvers. All hobo nickels, original to modern, and their collectors are a part of the Original Hobo Nickel Society. The name of the club will not change.

With that re-definition of mission comes a change to the authentication service. There will no longer be a distinction between old or modern, original or neo-bo. Each coin will be rated and discussed on its own merits and given a quality designation. If the carver - old or modern- is known, it will be included. Each examiner will try to include as much information as is known about the carving, techniques used, carver, coin and subject. Pictures will continue to be taken. Coins will no longer be registered or given a number, except for internal OHNS filing of the copies. The cost of authentication will remain the same, except for special mailing and insurance.

Hobo nickel carvers will be encouraged to include their initials on all carvings and write articles for *Bo Tales* about their creations. All hobo nickels will be accepted, without prejudice, for auction.

Comments from the membership are welcome and encouraged.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.



# H OBO ODGEPODGE

by Stephen P. Alpert, OHNS LM-10

## ICH KABIBBLE HOBO NICKELS

Some hobo nickels contain the phrase "Ich Kabibble" or a spelling-phonetic variation thereof, punched or engraved on the obverse of the hobo nickel.

The *New Dictionary of American Slang* by Robert Chapman, 1986, has an entry for "ish kabibble" (pronounced with the accents on ISH and BIB) as follows:

An exclamation of indifference, nonchalance = "I should worry." Origin unknown; perhaps an alteration of Yiddish nit or nisht gefidlt; apparently introduced and perhaps coined by the comedienne Fanny Brice.

This phrase "ish kabibble" could have been adopted by hoboes as an expression of their philosophy of life. If their condition in life was poor (due to their own doings, economic depression, or being victims of circumstance), this phrase indicated that there was nothing they could do about it, so why should they worry about it. Worrying wouldn't improve things. Just continue trying to get along as best you can. See the "I Should Worry" old hobo postcard (Figure 1).

This same sentiment has been expressed in similar phrases over the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Alfred E. Neuman of *MAD Magazine* had the motto "What, me worry?" And more recently, Bobby McFerrin had the hit song "Don't Worry, Be Happy."

There was an Ish Kabibble in show business. Ish Kabibble was the stage name of a comedic big band trumpet player with Kay Kyser's "Kollege of Musical Knowledge" circa the late 1920s to early 1950s. Born Merwyn Bogue, he took his stage name from the lyrics of one of

the goofy songs in his act.

When the big band era died down in the late 1950s he left show business to sell real estate. Ish Kabibble briefly gained national attention in the early 1960s when the Beatles became a worldwide musical sensation. Both he, and Moe Howard of the Three Stooges, had pre-Beatle examples of what was then called the Beatle-mop hair-cut.

None of the Ich Kabibble hobo nickels resembles Ish Kabibble the entertainer.

While researching "Ich Kabibble" in the mid 1990s, I frequently drove by a wooden free-standing A-frame advertising sign on



Figure 2

the side of the road on an industrial stretch of Olympic Blvd. in Santa Monica, Calif. It advertised a nearby business: Ish Kabibble antique furniture. I phoned the number on the sign as I was curious as to why they chose that business name. The woman I spoke to said she was Ish Kabibble's daughter, and that "Ish Kabibble" was a Yiddish term for "Don't Worry."



Figure 3

\* continued on page 11



## Hobo Hodgepodge... continued from page 10

She sent me a business card and letterhead (Figure 2). However, I just noticed that the card seems to indicate she



Figure 4

is band leader Kay Kyser's daughter. The business no longer exists.

Figure 3 illustrates a 1913 "Ich Kabibble" hobo nickel, with the phrase punched. The hair-beard-mustache is

also punched. The hat is carved; the ear is narrow; the collar is carved; and the profile is unaltered except for the receding forehead. Another "Ich Kabibble" by the same artist was lot 48 in the August 1996 OHNS auction.

Figure 4 is a totally carved 1913 "Ich Ca Bibble" hobo nickel, with a small hat, ear overlapping the hat, and untrimmed hair and beard.

Figure 5 is a totally carved 1913 "Ish Kabibel" hobo nickel. The hat is lined, with a large bow and straight brim. "Ish Kabibel" is around the



Figure 5

lower right. Another similar piece by the same artist is pictured in Joyce Romines' book, page 44, bottom row, second coin. (Pictured just to the left of it is another "Ish Kabibel" hobo nickel apparently by a different artist.)

Figure 6 is a totally carved 1913 "Ich Gebible" hobo nickel, which was lot 4 in the August 1996 OHNS auction. It has a nice small hat, and altered profile.

I'm sure more examples must exist of "Ich Kabibble" hobo nickels.

## HOBO FRACTIONAL CURRENCY

A possible forerunner of hobo nickels may have been "hobo fractional currency" - fractional currency notes where the bust on the note was altered with pen and ink. I first learned of these when a group of them was offered on eBay a few years ago. And I saw one in person at a coin show last year.

The busts were altered by the artistic addition of a beard, pipe, cigar, etc., and/or changes to the hair or profile. Being a two-dimensional flat paper surface, only features could be added (as nothing could be easily removed).

The problem with collecting these is that they are too easily faked. Anyone now or in the past could have taken worn old fractional currency notes and altered them with fountain pen and ink to make them worth more as hobo notes. It would be very difficult to tell if the alteration was contemporary (19<sup>th</sup> century) or more modern.

An article (not by me) on hobo fractional currency notes is planned for *Bo Tales* later this year.



Figure 6



## The Bridges of Numismatic Counties

There are no true boundaries, especially in the realm of exonumia. The fences around each category are not absolutely confining. This flexibility and blending is a beautiful asset of our hobby.

Victorian times gave us Love Tokens, the art of altering coins from circulating money to be presented as mementos to convey a special sentiment. During the Depression era, Hobo nickels surfaced. The respective token societies of Love Tokens and Original Hobo Nickels have discussed combining forces and/or energies for the enhancement of both hobbies.

The "original" artists are long gone, but the talent and creativity is alive and thriving! This art form is ever expanding and unifying. The beautiful creations of Master Engraver Sam Alfano are evidence. Sam has now spanned the boundary and bridged the gap. He has united the "re-working" of the Buffalo nickel with the engraving of heartfelt sentiment.

Presented for your enjoyment, the Special token that

Sam created for me per the specifications of "Zepp" OHNS member #456. The obverse with the Indians head has been cleverly and optimally rearranged and altered to convey a special message.

If you soften/blur your gaze, you can almost "see" the ghost of the Indians image. James Fraser's mark "F" remains, verifying the authenticity of the original nickel. The reverse shows the mighty bison floating freely in the unified field.

I am proud to be the recipient of this lovely gift and masterful work of art! We are fortunate to have such talent in our midst alive, accessible and active, not as elusive as "Bo" and the others had been.

I urge you to visit Sam's website - [HtmlResAnchor http://www.hobonickel.net](http://www.hobonickel.net)- and present him with a new challenge in the form of your own commissioned work.

Vagabondly yours,  
Ceebo #408



A commissioned love token/hobo nickel made especially for lovebirds Ceebo & Zepp. Made to Zepp's specifications, this nickel features a stylized songbird from an antique German medal. The word "Liberty" has been modified to be L. BE T. for "Love Be True." The date of 1938 has been modified to "94" which is the year they met. Modifications on the reverse include UNITED STATES changed to UNI-STAT which is Greek for "one stand" and the area below the buffalo is cleared away. Zepp is one heck of a romantic guy!



## "STEAMY STEW A HIT WITH OHNS HOBO"

by Bill Fivaz

As many of you know, OHNS is fortunate (and proud) to have, among its members, at least two real-life hoboes. One of these is Newell Shireman, a former "Knight of the Road" now residing in PA. His moniker is "Messcook", and I've had the pleasure of meeting him upon two different occasions.

He's a gracious and most interesting gentleman, well into his 80s, and not at all hesitant to regale listeners with stories about his days riding the rails. I received two letters from him recently, and I thought I'd share them with you.

"I was thinking I might make it to FUN, but had to come home from up at my hunting lodge, having caught pneumonia. I'm just now (Dec. 26) feeling better. I'd sure like to try your wife's Mulligan Stew that you serve down there. Back in the 30s when I was traveling the railroads, I ate some of the best (and bad) Mulligan Stew at the hobo camps along the railroad tracks. At all the camps (jungles) they would have it for the new men that arrived that day. If you stayed more than one day, you would have to go out and bum the ingredients to make the stew. Those were the days I'll never forget.

Please keep me in mind if you find a "Bert" carving. Whenever I go to a coin show I make the rounds of all the dealers, hoping to find one. Many years ago, I was at a show in Chambersburg (PA), and a dealer had 18 Brazzell nickels. I bought all of them for \$5.00 each, and I'm quite proud of them now."

(As a result of Newell's mention of my wife's ("Cookie") Mulligan Stew, we made a little extra when we were "loading up" for the FUN give-a-way, and we sent him a big plastic jar if it so he wouldn't miss out. I received the following note from him when I returned from Orlando):

"Was pleasantly surprised when I received your parcel in today's mail. As soon as I saw what you sent me, I made a big bowl of the Mulligan Stew, and believe me, it was the best I ever had. I can still recall eating it at the jungle

camps at the railroad camps near where they made up the trains. This was where Bert had taken me when I first met him in Joliet, IL. I was trying to hitch a ride by car when he came by and asked me where I was going to stay that night. He told me I could stay in a camp along side of the railroad. He got me started to be a hobo. I had just finished high school, and had hitched out to Chicago to the World's Fair.

"Well, I would like to ask your wife if she would give out the recipe for her stew. I know some folks do not like to give out their recipes, so if not, I'll understand. My wife died just a year ago, so I am the chief cook and bottle-washer. I enjoy making new things and would love to make the stew. It was the best I ever had! I'm going to try to make next years FUN. Sincerely, Newell Shireman".

Well, we passed the "secret" recipe on to Newell, so he can enjoy the stew anytime he wants to. Someone suggested that we auction off the recipe at next year's FUN sale, and we might just do that.

I hope you've enjoyed Newell's comments.





## Tools of the Nickel Carver - The Liner and Beading Tool

by Sam Alfano

We might imagine that the hobo nickels we collect were carved by scraggly old fellows down by the railroad tracks. While it's true that some were, the tools used by these folk artists might tell a different story. They range from knives and crude homemade chisels to specialized engraving tools which are normally found on a jeweler's bench. For example, we've all seen photos of nickels which were engraved with portions showing very fine, evenly spaced lines. This is usually done to achieve a texturing or shading effect. The tool used is called a liner, and is a specialized hardened steel graver whose bottom edge consists of a series of parallel v-shaped grooves. As its name implies, it incises a series of perfectly spaced lines with a single stroke. Liners are available in many widths and numbers of lines. If you've seen gold jewelry with a Florentine finish, then you've seen liner work.

Quality Florentine finishes are produced with a wide liner which cuts superfine, shallow lines, and the end re-



**EXAMPLE 1** - Overlapping punched circles create patches of beard, hair, and designs on the collar with a stone setter's beading tool.



**EXAMPLE 2** - A liner is used to texture the hat and create the beard and hair. This one appears to cut 6 to 8 lines in a single stroke. Note the zigzag pattern in the lower beard. This is called a "wriggle cut" and is done by "walking" the graver from side to side. It's the most basic of all engraving cuts.

sult is a lovely brushed finish with a soft glow. While liners are available at most jewelry supply stores, they are hardly a tool that a self-taught carver would have access to, or perhaps even know about. Liners are tools typically used by experienced engravers and jewelers.

You will frequently see nickels carved with hair and/or beards textured with a small circular punch. I've seen this described as a "ring punch" or "nail set" when used to describe hobo nickel carvings. It's actually a beading tool, which is a tool used by jewelers when flat setting diamonds. It's a tiny steel punch with a perfectly formed dimple in the end, and these are available in a variety of sizes.

When beading tools are used for flat setting a diamond, a hole is drilled into the gold and a special cutter is used

continued on page 15



## Nickel Carver... continued from page 14

to create a "seat" for the stone. Next, the stone is placed into the hole and a graver is forced into the metal, raising a burr near the edge of the stone. This burr is pushed and worked until it folds over the edge of the stone. This process is repeated to hold the stone at four equally distant points. Now the beading tool is used to shape the unsightly burr of metal into a nice, round ball or "bead". This is accomplished with hand pressure alone. The end results are little round balls of gold which lock the diamond into the setting.

On hobo nickels, the beading tool is tapped with a hammer to produce a texture effect. The tool is not tapped hard enough to produce the raised bead, but just enough to make patches of overlapping circles. Using this method, a large area can be textured in very short order. Like the liner, a beading tool is not something one can make without oil hardening tool steel and a beading tool plate (an expensive machined steel block used for making beading tools), but can be purchased at a jeweler's supply store.

Proper graver sharpening is something that baffles most beginning engravers and is one of the most difficult hurdles they face. So how did hobos learn such a demanding craft? Were the nickels made with liners, beading tools, and gravers actually made by hobos, or were they made at a jeweler's bench? Or perhaps by out-of-work jewelers or engravers who packed a few tools with them when work ran out and they were forced to hit the road?

There's an old tale of a wandering engraver in New Orleans back in the '50's who would drift into town and go from bar to bar and do engravings for shots of whiskey. As the story goes, he would drink the shot and then use the bottom of his shot glass as a rotating engraver's vise and engrave whatever item you wanted. Could this engraver have been a nickel carver? He sure fits the profile! I guess we'll never really know, but it adds to the mystery of the unique American folk art of hobo nickels.



EXAMPLE 3 - A beading tool and liner are both used on this nickel for the beard and shading on the neck.

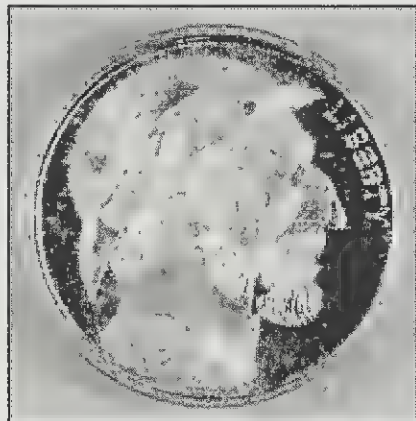




## OHNS Tokens

by Jeff Daniher

Have you ever wished that you could build a collection of exquisitely carved hobo nickels? Today, even with a nearly



1992 #1

unlimited budget, this would be a difficult task. For those of use that do not have unlimited budgets, even one high quality original hobo nickel can run several hundred dollars. What can you do if you still love to collect? Thanks to



1992 #1 Reverse

the work of master carver Ron Landis, you can put together a decent collection for a very reasonable price.

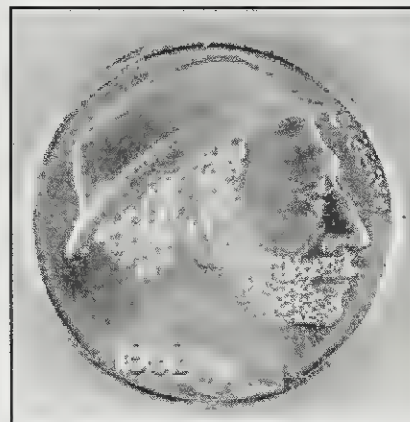
Before you think that I am out of my mind, I am not speaking of Ron's hand



1992 #2, 1993, 1994 Reverse

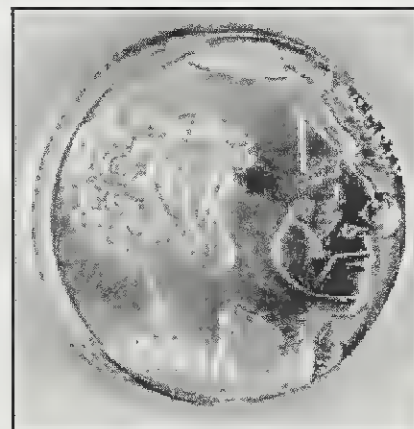
carved one of kind masterpieces. Each one of these takes hours to produce and sell for hundreds of dollars. Instead, what I am referring to are Ron's *hobo tokens*. What are hobo tokens and why should you be interested in them?

In 1992, Ron was intrigued with a new organization that was being formed called The Original Hobo Nickel Society. Wanting to help spread the word about this young club, Ron created two hand carved dies that he used to overstrike uncirculated Jefferson Nickels turning them into hobo nickel look-a-likes. The obverse featured a bearded



1992 #2

man in a derby hat, with the date 1992. The reverse portrayed a hobo running alongside a train with the saying "Hop On! Join the Fun" and "Original Hobo Nickel Society" along the top rim. Ron

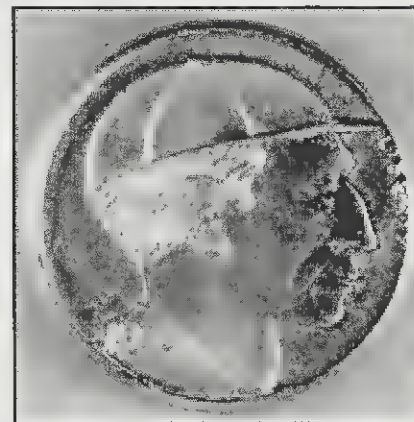


1993

struck only a couple hundred of these and donated them to the young society so they could have something to sell at the club table at coin shows.

It wasn't until 1994 that Ron produced more tokens for the OHNS. This time, he created a punch of a bald man's head that he would use to flesh out the

continued on page 17



1994



## OHNS Tokens... continued from page 16



1995

main image on the obverse. Then, with only his imagination and tremendous talent, he would add the rest of the design by hand, changing the image of the man into other fanciful designs. The board of the OHNS asked Ron to create back dated tokens at this time for each of the last three years that the OHNS had been in existence.

These club tokens for the years of 1992, 1993 and 1994 were primarily struck on cupronickel blanks. Ron related that the planchets were very hard and it was difficult to strike the tokens so that they brought up the full details. To overcome this challenge, the tokens were struck in a slightly larger than nickel size collar which resulted in a



1996

sort of broad struck token that allowed the metal to flow better. Some tokens for these early years were also struck over actual nickels, and there are a few die trials known that were struck on brass planchets.

The 1992 design features another man in a derby hat on the obverse and a buffalo nickel style reverse with the words "Original Hobo Nickel Society founded 1992" replacing the traditional lettering. Hobo Token is listed where the denomination normally resides. This same reverse was used for the 1993 and 1994 tokens as well.



1996 Reverse

The 1993 design has the hobo head punch turned into a circus clown. The 1994 token added a baseball hat to the hobo punch. The word Liberty is hand engraved where it would be on a normal buffalo nickel coin on each of these three token's obverse. Precise mintage figures for these early tokens are not known. Ron estimated that no more than 200 were struck, as the early club membership was not that large. Most of these tokens were sold at the club table at FUN shows, although a small supply remained and was sold through an ad in Bo-Tales to club members for \$10.00 each beginning in 1999 until the supply was exhausted.



1998

In 1995, Ron tried something new. This time, Ron modified the punched obverse to resemble the Indian on an unaltered Buffalo nickel. The token was dated 1995. The reverse featured a new design of a train engine with the words "All Aboard" below it. "Original Hobo Nickel Society" is around the top of the train. Like the other years, these tokens were also struck primarily on cupron-



1999

nickel blanks. Fewer tokens dated 1995 were made than of the earlier years, and consequently these sold out at the club table before they were offered to the general membership.

In 1996, Ron switched back to the Buffalo reverse of the previous years. The obverse of these tokens has a curled

continued on page 18



## OHNS Tokens... continued from page 17



1999-2000 Reverse

mustached pirate complete with a large hoop earring. If you examine a token closely, you will see the paisley design on the pirate's bandana. You may also notice something else. This year Ron switched back to striking the tokens over Jefferson Nickels. He explained to me that this was done because the nickels were easier to work with than the cupronickel. Again, exact mintages are not known at this time, but are estimated to be about 200 to 300.

During the early years of the club tokens, Ron came up with the designs himself. The Gallery mint struck the tokens, and they were "sold" to the club for a small amount so that most of the proceeds from the sale of the tokens could be used to fund scholarships to the ANA's summer seminar.

No tokens were made that were dated 1997. Why? Well, according to the recollection of some board members that were involved at the time, the club had a decent supply of the earlier dated tokens and so none were needed.

The 1998 token is the first time that the design was "selected" for Ron. Archie Taylor had found an oil painting of a hobo that he found in an estate sale. The board had a "name the mascot" contest, and Steve Alpert came up with the name "Nick O'Honis (O H N S...get it?). Ron skillfully created a por-

trait of Nick for the obverse and the train reverse used in 1995 made its reappearance. Like 1996, these tokens are also struck over nickels.

For 1999, a Coal Miner hobo token was created for the society. The reverse contains the same OHNS train engine as the previous year. The 2000 club token portrays a Viking on the obverse with the train engine reverse.

The newly available 2001 club tokens are a complete departure from the previous years issues. Ron related to me that he designed them using an entirely



2001

different process. First, instead of using the bald hobo man's head punch that was used to start some of the previous years designs, he took a real buffalo nickel and altered it by hand. One was made of the stereotypical derby hatted man for the obverse, while Ron carved the reverse of another nickel into a walking hobo with a bindle stick. Using a process that the Gallery Mint created, these superior carvings were used to create the dies for the tokens. Ron was concerned that if the dies were struck on nickels, that someone could alter the tokens in such a way as to pass them off as "authentic" hobo nickels and sell them for high prices. To solve this problem, as well as to preserve the

life of the dies, the tokens were struck on SILVER planchets. In Ron's words, this resulted in tokens that captured the detail that would also age gracefully as the silver toned over the years.

The 2001 tokens do cost more than previous years. The reason for this is that the club is now paying a fair price for the tokens it orders instead of the bargain "donated" price of the earlier pieces. Still wanting to raise funds for the ANA summer seminar scholarship fund, the Board of the OHNS authorized



2001Reverse

the price of \$20 for one token or \$35 for two tokens, with a strict limit of only two tokens per member. No tokens were sold at the FUN show in 2001 as in previous years as they were not available.

If you have seen the 2001 token, you will be amazed at their quality. Yet, the best is still to come. To celebrate the tenth anniversary of the OHNS, the Board has voted to retain the services of Ron to create a special tenth anniversary token for 2002. These tokens will be available next year in a special three piece set, with one struck in silver, one in copper, and one in GOLD! A strict limit of one gold token per member will be in place, with the mintage

continued on page 19



## ANA Summer Seminar 2000

I want to give a big thank you to the OHNS for me being the recipient of the adult scholarship for the ANA Summer Seminar 2000, which was held at the Colorado College, Colorado Springs, CO.

The ANA Headquarters are located one block from the Colorado College. The displays of coins and currency and the making of every type are a great history lesson, and are so well displayed at the ANA Headquarters. That alone is a great place to visit.

I attended the first session on July 17. My wife, Eileen, attended also and enjoyed it as much as I did.

The class we both took was Grading U.S. Coins. It consisted of learning how to grade coins and commemorative tokens by wear, toning, mint nicks and scratches, plus other features.

We stayed at the Colorado College dorm. We had a nice room with the bathrooms down the hall. We ate at the cafeteria provided for the students. The food was as good or better than you could find elsewhere, and the selection was great.

After a day or two we knew about everyone either by name or by sight. There were approximately 200 students for the first session.

Every evening there were bull sessions on various topics and also outside field trips of many choices. We took a side trip to a working dude ranch, which was up in the mountains. Each night during the summer they have nearly 1,500 who enjoy an authentic chuck wagon dinner and then settle back for an evening of truly Western music at the Flying W Ranch.

The next evening we took an hour+ trip via the cog rail up to Pikes Peak. We got on the train and it was 85 degrees, and 14,110 feet up the mountain it was below freezing. It was a very delightful trip and the view was gorgeous. You can see 150 miles into Kansas on a clear day. It was clear when we were there. There are side trips to suit every persons wants.

One of the side trips we planned was a trip to the Denver Mint. That trip was cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances.

The materials for some of the classes were assembled by our own Bill Fivaz, with slides and grading techniques deemed very helpful.

Gail Baker, former Secretary and Editor of Bo Tales, is Director of Education at the American Numismatic Association. She and her staff organized

and guided the program to near perfection.

The instructor for our class was Don Bonser, assisted by Mike Faraone, Lew Larson, and Len Albrecht, who are professional graders. They did a marvelous job and the informal sessions were very knowledgeable. We learned to beware of coins that have been altered for eye appeal.

Gail and her staff presented us with a Graduation Reception with wine and fellowship, followed by a Banquet Feast of no equal. At the banquet certificates of appreciation were presented to the instructors of the Seminar. We felt especially proud when the President of the College presented the Presidential Award to our instructor, Don Bonser, much to his surprise. He was very humble and appreciative of the award.

We made a lot of friends and had a great time. Thanks to all who contributed to our very enjoyable week at this Seminar.

Following the banquet was a concert by the Doe Brothers, which was very much enjoyed by all.

Eileen Polk RM#473

Bob Polk RM#476

### OHNS Tokens... continued from page 18

limited to the number of pre-ordered tokens. Spread the word, and remember that you must be an OHNS member to obtain the gold token.

Also available to OHNS members will be a specially created token for those who author an article for Bo Tales. They will only be issued in exchange for a story, just like many of the original hobos were made in exchange for something else of value such as a meal.

Get your pens ready and submit your articles to our editor!

For those of you who have other hobo tokens that I have not described here, stay tuned to the next issue of Bo Tales where I will describe the Gallery Mint Museum Hobo tokens that were created by Ron beginning in 1996. These are fantastic companion pieces to the OHNS hobo tokens and are also avidly sought by collectors. Remember that the

2001 OHNS hobo tokens are available from Fred Benson. Unfortunately, Fred has informed me that he is nearly sold out of all of the previous years issues of the OHNS tokens. If you are interested in obtaining the Gallery Mint Museum's 2001 silver hobo tokens, they are available by calling the GMM at 1-888-588-MINT.



## FROM THE OHNS LIBRARY

We are happy to announce that OHNS now has a functioning Library that you as members can use for your enjoyment. At this time our inventory is low, but we are ready to accept donations from you so we can change that. We encourage all of you, as members, to be on the watch for materials pertaining to Hobos that you would donate to our fine organization. Let's make our library one of the best there is. Wouldn't it be fine if one day we would be where you would go to find material related to this subject?

We will have a very simple cataloging system such as; BK- for Books, AC- for Audio Cassettes, VC- for Video Cassettes, CD- for Compact Disc, SLD- for Slides, SLDS- for Slides with Script, SLDAC- for Slides with Audio Cassette, BT- for back issues of Bo Tales and OHNSA- for OHNS Auction Catalogs.

Each will be followed by a Number, the Title of the subject matter and a Date, in the case of dated material. Yours truly will make every effort to view all VC's and Slide presentations to give you an idea about how much time it will take to view them and that will be listed also.

The rules of the library are as follows; Upon your request the item will be shipped directly to you with a return shipping label enclosed. You should be able to use the same shipping container to return the item, via Library mail postage. You will have 30 days to use this material. You will pay for the shipping both ways; check the Postal Meter Tape on the package that was sent to you. Send a check or money order, for that amount, made out to; **Roger E. Wollam** and enclose it with the material. Should you misplace, lose, or damage this item, you will be held responsible for its replacement cost as determined by the OHNS Board of Directors.

So how do you use the Library? It is as simple as putting your Name and Address, make sure that I can read it, on a post card, along with your selection(s), and mail it to;

OHNS Library  
c/o Roger E. Wollam  
3191 Wayside Terrace N.E.  
Salem, OR. 97303

And don't forget to note the date you receive your material so you will know when it is to be returned. Also, don't forget to check the postal meter tape so you will know how much to enclose when you ship it back.

### PRESENT INVENTORY:

**BK-1 - "Boxcar Bertha" by Dr. Ben L. Reitman 1988 (Reprint of 1937 Original)** - At age seventeen, Berth Thompson set off on her own, traveling by open freight car through the radical bohemia of the 1930's. This is a riveting story not only for its first-hand impressions of hobo jungles, whorehouses, jails, skid rows, Chicago's Bughouse Square, New York's Greenwich Village, and life on the rails, but also for its exploration of women's position in the underbelly of American life.

**BK-2 - "Born in Captivity" by Barbara Starke 1931** - An autobiography of a young girl hobo who traveled alone from New England to California and back, in the 1920's, via hitchhiking and walking. (No train travel)

**BK-3 - "The Last Great American Hobo" by Dale Maharidge 1993** - A story of an old Hobo "Blackie" and his friends, who lived in a hobo camp on the Sacramento River, 1980's to early 1990's, and their struggle to prevent the city from tearing down their camp. All chronicled and photographed by two Sacramento newspaper men, Michael Williamson and Dale Maharidge, who spent three seasons with Blackie

**VC-1 - "Great American Hobo" by Hobo Times 1/22/88 (30 min.)**

Have fun and I am looking forward to your donations.

OHNS Librarian  
Roger (Twigg) Wollam



# Letter to the Editor

Hi Everyone:

I'm a new member of the OHNS and looking forward to getting acquainted with many of you. I found out about OHNS by surfing the net and generating a few e-mails. My interest in Hobo Nickels was recently "revived". I recall my Dad giving me an authentic one in the 1940's that I put away in a box only to reopen the small box a month ago! My Dad got the nickel in the 30's from his Dad. The nickel carving is a Bearded man with Derby Hat and I'm going to send it on to Bill Fivaz for registering and numbering. The nickel is protected from scratching, etc. and encased in a plastic coin packet.

As I write this, a thought comes to my mind. I have severe/profound hearing loss and just retired from a 20 year state government position as Director of the Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in the NJ Department of Human Services. There is a way to reach out to a population of 28 million people with hearing loss in this country. We have national organizations such as National Association of the Deaf, Self Help for Hard of Hearing People, Association of Late Deafened Adults to name a few. These organizations have their own newsletters and magazines. I'm sure we could get word out to them about our Hobo Nickel collecting and get others interested. Who knows, some of them may have a jewel of a prized collection to show us in BO TALES.

For those of you For those of you who are interested in (or want to know more about) "reaching out" to this population, drop me an e-mail at Mann1938@aol.com. Questions will be cheerfully answered!

Richard Herring  
OHNS Member  
Forked River, NJ 08731

## NEW Members

As of March 2001

Type	Number	Name	State
RM	602	Paul Ferraro	PA
RM	603	Richard Quitmeyer	MN
RM	604	Ken Mitchell	MI
RM	605	Richard Herring	NJ
RM	606	John Yancho	NC
RM	607	Ron Haas	FL
RM	608	Steven Adams	WI
RM	609	Michael Piszczek	NV
AM	610	Bob Palmatter	MI
RM	611	Richard Watley	NC
RM	612	Murray Rubin	MA
RM	613	Robert Kevorkian	CT
RM	614	Donald Pisar	TX
RM	615	George Walko	PA
RM	616	Donald Kostecki	FL
RM	617	Max Mayhew	CT

## Bo Tales Publishing Schedule

The schedule is dependent on the timely submittal of articles AND the demands of my family and job. We will attempt to stay close to the publishing schedule below:

Issue	Deadline for Submitting Articles	Publish Date
Bo Tales Vol. 10, No. 2	May 5, 2001	June 2001
Bo Tales Vol. 10, No. 3	August 5, 2001	September 2001
Auction Catalog	October 15, 2001	December 2001
Bo Tales Vol. 11, No. 1	February 5, 2002	March 2002

Please submit your articles as soon as you can to:  
Roman Luzacky, 5 Melody Lane, Cherry Hill, NJ 08002-1526



## ORIGINAL HOBO NICKEL SOCIETY, INC.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

## FOR THE PERIOD

JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2000

Beginning Balance - General Fund		\$10,002.07
Beginning Balance - Scholarship Fund		3,326.82
Certificate of Deposit		2,933.59
General Fund Revenues		
Dues	\$ 2,530.00	
Book & Merchandise Sales	225.38	
Authentication	2,455.50	
Auction Commission	3,031.36	
Interest (checking account)	<u>191.72</u>	
Total	\$8,433.96	
General Fund Expenses		
Supplies & Miscellaneous	\$979.08	
Postage	654.85	
Authentication & Photos	412.84	
Merchandise	450.50	
Florida Corporation Fee	61.25	
Newsletter, Catalog, Brochure	6,012.67	
Dues	35.00	
FUN Table	<u>125.00</u>	
Total	\$ 8,731.19	
Scholarship Fund Revenue - Donations	\$ 10.00	
Scholarship Fund Expenses - Scholarships and 2 Airfares	2,753.00	
Closing Balance - General Fund		\$ 6,683.48
Closing Balance - Scholarship Fund		3,605.18
Certificate of Deposit		3,061.14
Total		\$ 13,349.80



## PRICES REALIZED, OHNS AUCTION #9

FUN CONVENTION, Jan. 6, 2001

MB = sold to a mail bid

Lot #	Hammer Price	Lot #	Hammer Price	Lot #	Hammer Price
1	\$ 95	46	250	98	350
2	150	47	300	99	30 MB
3	40 MB	48	210	100	170
4	30	49	330	101	150
5	20	50	125	102	125
6	120	51	375 MB	103	90 MB
7	170	52	300	104	70
8	70	53	225	105	30
9	120	54	250	106	600
10	120	55	225 MB	107	300
11	300 MB	56	300	108	450
12	40 MB	57	350	109	650
13	20	58	275	110	400
14	20	59	175	111	20
15	65	60	175	112	120 MB
16	140	61 to 68	- see 69	113	20
17	90	69	1700 MB	114	25
18	80	70	125	115	60
19	60 MB	71	150	116	20
20	170	72	15 MB	117	70
21	25 MB	73	20	118	40 MB
22	100	74	10	119	40 MB
23	60	75	15	120	70
24	40 MB	76	150	121	100 MB
25	25	77	180 MB	122	15
26	160	78	250	123	60
27	300	79	70	124	20
28	70	80	250 MB	125	15
29	375	81	200 MB	126	55
30	110 MB	82	70	127	20
31	110 MB	83	80 MB	128	175
32	200	84	60 MB	129	75
33	200 MB	85	110	130	70
34	35	86	75	131	15
35	100	87	40	132	500 MB
36	20	88	125	133	250
37	170	89	90	134	350
38	60	90	25	135	275
39	1300	91	25	136	250
40	800 MB	92	30	137	450
41	350 MB	93	20	138	425
42	350	94	30	139	1500
43	25	95	15		
44	175	96	40		
45	100	97	35		



## The new 2001 OHNS tokens are here!

These tokens are all struck in silver, and as such, very attractive.  
The cost is \$20 each or two (2) for \$35.

Orders should be sent to:

Fred Benson

9862 Hawthorn Glen

Grosse Ile, MI 48138-2115

Please make checks payable to OHNS!



Obverse



Reverse

Fred says he still has the following material ready to ship to any member who hasn't ordered yet. Also, the hobo tokens by Ron Landis are great additions to your collection... take advantage of their availability now and get a complete set.

- 1996, 1998 through 2000 Hobo Tokens by Ron Landis (Pirate/Buffalo) \$10.00 each

\*The following back issues of BO TALES and Auction catalogues with prices realized are also available to members (number in parenthesis is the # of copies available). BO TALES issues are \$3.50 ea. and Auction Catalogues are \$4.00 ea.

#### Auction Catalogs

Jan. 95 (20)  
Jan. 96 (30)  
Aug. 96 (20)  
Jan. 97 (30)  
Jan. 98 (150)  
Jan. 00 (40)

#### Bo-Tales

Fall 93(3)  
Winter 93 (1)  
April 94 (4)  
Feb. 95 (2)  
July 95 (20)  
Dec. 95 (25)  
April 96 (12)

Dec. 96 (12)  
April 97 (25)  
Aug. 97 (25)  
Dec. 97 (15)  
May 98 (15)  
Aug. 98 (50)  
Jul/Aug/Sept 99 (5)

Order should be sent to: Fred Benson, 9862 Hawthorn Glen, Grosse Ile, MI 48138. Please make checks payable to OHNS!

**Photos of the available tokens are shown here to entice you!**



1996



1996 Reverse



1999



1998



1999-2000 Reverse



2000





# THE ORIGINAL HOBO NICKEL SOCIETY, INC.

P.O. BOX 54583 • CINCINNATI, OH 45254-0583



## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM

☐ Please enroll me as a member in the Original Hobo Nickel Society, Inc. as indicated.

☐ Please renew my membership (member number \_\_\_\_\_) as indicated.

☐ 5 years @ \$40

☐ 3 years @ \$25

☐ 1 year @10

☐ Life @ \$250

☐ Youth under 19 @ \$5

☐ Associate @ \$5 (no mailings)

I am also enclosing a donation of \_\_\_\_\_ for the OHNS Scholarship program.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Moniker (Nickname): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

*I agree to abide by the Society's Code of Ethics.*

Signature of Candidate \_\_\_\_\_

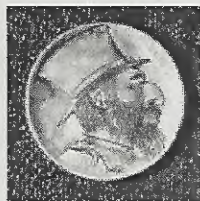
Sponsor's Name \_\_\_\_\_

## OHNS Advertisement Policy and Rates

- Prices quoted are for camera ready display copy.
- Graphic layout and design @ \$25 per hour is available.
- Pictures or graphics are encouraged.
- Payment in full must be submitted with ads. Make checks payable to: Original Hobo Nickel Society.
- All ads must be related to Hobo Nickels or associated materials or subject matter.
- Dealers must adhere to our Code of Ethics.

*Numismatic flyers can be inserted and mailed with Bo Tales for as little as \$150.*

	Annual -4 Publications	Single Issue - Bo Tales	Single - Auction Catalogue
Full Page	\$225.00	\$100.00	\$125.00
Full Page w/Cover	\$250.00	XX	XX
Half Page Ad	\$150.00	\$75.00	\$100.00
Quarter Page Ad	\$100.00	\$50.00	\$75.00
Inside Cover	XX	XX	\$175.00



# THE ORIGINAL HOBO NICKEL SOCIETY, INC.

P.O. BOX 54583 • CINCINNATI, OH 45254-0583



## HOBO NICKEL AUTHENTICATION SUBMISSION FORM

Submissions will be reviewed by two OHNS examiners who will give independent opinions as to the quality of the carving (with explanation and/or observations), subject, and probable artist. A photograph of the coin will be taken to accompany the report. Originals of the report and photograph will be returned along with the coin to the owner and copies will be kept by (1) the examiner and (2) in the OHNS archives. Please fill out one form for each coin submitted and mail coin(s), form(s) and payment to one of the following examiners:

Bill Fivaz  
P.O. Box 888660  
Dunwoody, GA 30356-0660

Steve Alpert  
P.O. Box 66331  
Los Angeles, CA 90066-0331

Owner's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ OHNS Membership # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Owner's value of coin (this information is necessary for insurance): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Members:** \$15.00 per coin\* **or** ten or more coins - \$12.50 per coin\* **Non-Members:** \$25.00 per coin\*  
(Fee includes first class postage and \$100 insurance per coin.)

**For ADDITIONAL INSURANCE and/or REGISTERED MAIL: please add \$5.00 per coin**

I understand that the opinions rendered are strictly that, opinions, and are not a guarantee that the item is genuine. It is however, the best considered judgement by qualified specialists in the area, but others may reach different conclusions.

☐ I authorize OHNS to use a photograph of this coin. ☐ I authorize OHNS to use my name (not address).

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Submitter

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Please make all checks payable to:  
Original Hobo Nickel Society



## All Aboard

Here are our knights of the road currently aboard the OHNS train.

### OHNS BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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**Don "Sport" Farnsworth**, Publicity Director, QD Examiner  
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### Original Hobo Nickel Society, Inc.

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